

GASOLINE PRICES RISE IN JANUARY

DES MOINES — Gasoline prices increased 9 cents from December to an average of \$1.39 for a gallon of self-serve, regular unleaded gasoline, according to the DNR's January 15 Gas Monitors survey. Prices across the state ranged from \$1.30 to \$1.54 per gallon and are \$0.30 higher than this time last year. The average price for regular unleaded with ethanol was \$1.38 per gallon. The latest data shows ethanol-blended gasoline represents 59.7 percent of the market share.

Retail conventional unleaded gasoline prices in Iowa are \$0.03 below the national average of \$1.42, and \$0.05 below the regional average of \$1.44 per gallon.

Gasoline prices have risen steadily since December, due to the ongoing oil workers strike in Venezuela and continued tensions in Iraq. High levels of imported gasoline, reduced gasoline demand and an increase in refinery production have kept prices lower, but the loss of Venezuelan crude oil is beginning to be felt in the refining sector. Venezuelan exports accounts for roughly 8 percent of US crude oil and 1 percent of refined gasoline. Since the strike, Venezuela crude oil production is sharply down and the nation has begun importing gasoline, potentially drawing gallons away from the US market.

"Gasoline prices could continue to move higher if the oil workers strike in Venezuela continues. Venezuela is a large supplier of crude oil and refined gasoline to U.S. markets", said Jennifer Moehlmann, energy data analyst for the DNR. "Any further decline in crude oil inventory or reduction in refinery production will push prices higher."

The average price of self-serve diesel fuel for January was \$1.51, up \$0.06 from last month. Diesel fuel was \$1.19 per gallon one year ago. Diesel fuel prices have remained strong due to rising crude oil costs.

Crude oil finished trading on January 16 at \$33.66 per barrel, up \$3.47 from last month. One year ago, crude was \$17.97 per barrel. National crude oil inventory is at 272.3 million barrels, down 12.8 percent from the previous year. The DNR expects crude oil prices to remain volatile over the next month, with prices averaging \$30 to \$35 per barrel.

Propane

The January 13 survey found the average price of propane was \$0.90 per gallon. This is up \$0.04 from the previous month and \$0.06 (7.3 percent) above the price of propane at this time last year. By Jan. 10, U.S. propane inventory stood at 47.6 million barrels, down 3.1 million barrels (6.1 percent) from the previous week. U.S. propane inventory is 22.2 percent below last year's level at this time.

Heating Oil Prices

The January 13 survey found the average price of No.2 heating oil was \$1.13/gallon, the same as the previous week and \$0.28 above the price of heating oil at this time last year. A year ago, the average price was \$0.85 per gallon. The Department expects heating oil prices to

increase a few cents over the next month as heating oil continues its seasonal climb in January, responding to weather-related demand, and is pulled higher by increasing crude oil prices.

MOTOR FUELS SURVEY

Self-Serve	December 19	January 16	Change
Regular Unleaded	1.30	1.39	+0.09
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	1.29	1.38	+0.09
Premium Unleaded	1.41	1.48	+0.07
Diesel	1.45	1.51	+0.06
Full-Serve	December 19	January 16	Change
Regular Unleaded	1.51	1.60	+0.09
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	1.48	1.64	+0.16
Premium Unleaded	1.60	1.68	+0.08
Diesel	1.55	1.57	+0.02

HEATING FUELS SURVEY

	December 16	January 13	Change
Propane	0.87	0.90	+0.03
#2 Heating Oil	1.07	1.13	+0.06

AVERAGE SELF-SERVE UNLEADED PRICES IN MAJOR CITIES

	December 19	January 16	Change
Ames	1.32	1.40	+0.08
Cedar Rapids	1.24	1.33	+0.09
Council Bluffs	1.31	1.34	+0.03
Davenport	1.24	1.36	+0.12
Des Moines	1.33	1.38	+0.05
Dubuque	1.30	1.41	+0.11
Fort Dodge	1.32	1.46	+0.14
Iowa City	1.32	1.42	+0.10
Sioux City	1.32	1.39	+0.07
Waterloo	1.30	1.35	+0.05
Average Metro Price	1.29	1.38	+0.09

AVERAGE SELF-SERVE UNLEADED PRICES IN RURAL IOWA

	December 19	January 16	Change
Northeast	1.31	1.39	+0.08
Northwest	1.34	1.45	+0.11
Southeast	1.31	1.36	+0.05
Southwest	1.30	1.41	+0.11
Rural Area Average	1.31	1.41	+0.10

Wholesale Prices in Metropolitan Areas Around Iowa

Unleaded (cents per gallon)	December 12	January 9
Des Moines	78.16	89.47
Dubuque	78.16	90.03
Diesel Fuel (cents per gallon)	December 12	January 9
Des Moines	78.16	89.89
Dubuque	78.16	90.35

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